THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) No specific exercise is presently underway.

**Retirement age in PSUs**

1016. SHRI YADLAPATIVENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Steel Works construction has reduced the retirement age of its employees from 60 years to 58 years;

(b) if so, the number of employees retiring consequent to this decision of the Government;

(c) whether Government proposes to reduce the age of retirement in some other Public Sector Enterprises also; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 157 employees would retire during the cimrent year as a result of this decision.

(c) and(d) As per existing guidelines, the Board of Directors of the concerned PSU with the approval of the Minister Incharge of the administrative Ministry can take the decision to reduce the age of retirement.

**PSUs in Bihar**

1017. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Central and State PSUs in Bihar are incurring heavy losses and are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such a state of affairs; and

(c) what remedial action Government have taken or propose to take to save the PSUs of the State from closure?